News Notes
from the COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.
475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE NEW YORK 27, N. Y.

addressed to those who are concerned with Christianity and Higher Education

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GODARD AND MARTY TO ADDRESS PROTESTANT COLLEGE PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS

JAMES M. GODARD, new Executive Director of the Council of Protestant Colleges and Universities will address the afternoon session of the Protestant College Public Relations Officer's Conference, July 10th, 1960 on the subject "Our Job As I See It." Comments and discussion will follow.

At the evening session MARTIN E. MARTY, Associate Editor of the Christian Century will speak on "The Christian College in the Contemporary Cultural Scene."

In the business session, Milton L. Smith will present a new plan for regional promotion of National Christian College Day.

Here is the program as now planned.

1 - 2:45 p.m.	Denominational Luncheons Park-Sheraton Hotel, Washington, D. C. (Denominations make their own arrangements for lunch and program.)
3:00 p.m.	Assembly Address OUR JOB AS I SEE IT James M. Godard, Executive Director, C. P. C. U. Comments and Discussion Discussion Session on National Christian College Day
5:00 - 8:00 p.m.	Recess for the Reception and Dinner of the ACPRA
8:15 p.m.	Evening Session Address THE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE IN THE CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL SCENE Martin E. Marty, Associate Editor, The Christian Century

NCCD OBSERVANCE

Reports at the meeting of the Public Relations Committee of the Commission on Higher Education indicate that the 1960 observance of National Christian College Day was well above average. One of the interesting new features was the wide-spread use of radio spots prepared by Edwin Randall from interviews with a number of selected college professors on why they preferred teaching in Christian colleges. These were used by 80 stations across the country. It is hoped that more of this may be developed.

MORE ON DEGREE MILLS

In the April issue we recorded the "diploma mills" listed by Secretary Arthur Flemming. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has now issued more detailed information about them. The Council of State Governments has drawn up a draft of suggested legislation to curb these. Write - William L. Frederick, 36 W. 44th St., New York 36, N. Y.

EXCHANGE PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATION

Deeply concerned with recent surveys which show that a considerable number of colleges and universities believe that exchange contributes only secondarily to their basic mission as educational institutions, the committee on Educational Interchange Policy related to the Institute of International Education has just published a pamphlet College and University Programs of Academic Exchange. This is, as they described it, a policy statement presenting major issues involved in student, faculty and short time exchanges, with a list of questions offering a guide toward possible solutions of the problems these issues pose. The committee and the institute maintain that exchange activities should be inseparable from the purpose of the total university program - to educate. The committee is concerned over the number of colleges that put as the primary purpose in having such foreign students, the development of understanding between nations, rather than that it aided university educational objectives. The pamphlet should "assist the college or university in analyzing its international educational exchange activities."

RELIGION IN EDUCATION

The publication of this pamphlet reminds us that something similar should be said about the place of religion in the curriculum of the college or university. Religion belongs in the curriculum only if it is believed to be an integral and essential part of the educational task of the university. It does not belong there if it is viewed merely as a tool to aid character development, lift the moral tone or to aid the church. Hopefully it will do all these things, but these are indirect values arising from the university doing its essential task of education well.

TRENDS IN CATHOLIC THOUGHT

We call attention to two interesting reports that suggest developments in the Catholic Church that may indicate a liberalizing trend making possible freer and deeper conversations with Protestants.

First is the comment by a religious education leader of the Roman Catholic Church who said that during the past 60 years the development of the idea of the spread of Christianity through the concept of the revelation of God through His holy people rather than an emphasis on creeds is taking place in the church. It is marked by the conviction that creeds grow out of the life of the church. He added that Christianity taught biblically and liturgically may result in a decreasing sense of the differences between Catholics and Jews and with Protestants.

CATHOLICS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

The second is the study recently put out by the World Council of Churches on "Roman Catholism and Religious Liberty" by Dr. A. F. Carrillo DeAlbornoz. In a brief preface Dr. DeAlbornoz says, "We think it necessary to stress the momentous importance, within the Roman Catholic church, of the every day increasing stream in favor or religious liberty. If such an attitude should prevail in Roman Catholic thinking and practice, there is no doubt that new ways would open toward an ecumenical understanding with our Catholic brethren." And in the first chapter he says, "Roman Catholic literature representing this modern tendency has lately been so voluminous and of such quality that it would be an understatement that, for one book or article in favor of the traditional doctrine, ten have been published defending universal religious freedom as thesis." The study is available from the office of the World Council of Churches, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, New York.

LUTHERANS AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Dr. Gould Wickey has recently released some interesting figures on Lutheran involvement in higher education.

Institutions	Enrollment
31 colleges	44,223
19 junior colleges	3,025
38 high schools	11,509
	62,590

CHURCH COLLEGE CONTRIBUTION

An interesting note on Christian Colleges as a source of church leadership is found in a study of the student Y.M.C.A. now being completed. "Despite the tendency for universities to hire their own graduates as faculty, forty per cent of advisors to Y.M.C.A. student groups at public institutions are graduates of denominational colleges."

STEVENS AND WEISER LEAVE CHE

The Commission on Higher Education will miss two members of its staff who leave this summer, one to work on his graduate degree and the other to accept a teaching position. Tom Weiser for several years Study Secretary for United Student Christian Council and National Student Christian Federation leaves in June for Geneva where he will spend the summer after which he will work on his doctorate at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

Wesley Stevens, since January, 1957, Editorial Assistant and Editorial Associate of the Christian Scholar joins the faculty of Emory at Oxford, in Georgia to teach religion and western civilization.

Both men leave with the good wishes of all who have worked with them in the good work they have done.

FREE

The Christian Scholar has on hand a number of copies of the statements made recently by George N. Shuster, Ralph W. G. Wyckoff and Michael Polanyi on the occasion when Professor Polanyi received the Lecomte de Nouy Foundation award for his two recent books, Personal Knowledge and The Study of Man. A brief quote from Polanyi's statement. "In the days when religious dogma controlled all knowledge, religious dogma was the source of many errors. Today the scientific outlook exercises predominant control over all knowledge, and science has become the greatest single source of popular fallacies." Copies available on request from the office of The Christian Scholar.

NEW ASSOCIATION OF RELIGIOUS COORDINATORS

Under the leadership of DeWitt Baldwin and Milton McLain there has been organized a new Association for the Coordination of Universities Religious Affairs. The preamble to the constitution reads as follows: "Recognizing the multi-faith character of present day university enrollment and the increasing concern displayed by national religious bodies in the ministry to students, many administrators have deemed it essential to assign specific staff members to coordinate religious affairs in the religious university community.

"Consultations among the individuals first designated for this work in mid-west state universities resulted in the gathering of representatives in Chicago in November 1959 for the purpose of cultivating professional competence. Constituting themselves as charter members of the new organization the participants have drawn up an approved constitution and bylaws."

Among the objects of the new Association are the following:

- Bring university religious coordinators together.
- Clarify the role of religion in university life.
- Advise and encourage student intercollegiate and inter-religious conferences.
- Relate to other professional university personnel agencies.
- Foster the training of personnel for these positions.
- Serve as a resource to private governmental agencies.
- Encourage university research on religion in American university life.

The constitution and bylaws were ratified March 12th, 1960

A DIFFERENT MCCARTHY

Senator Eugene McCarthy has written an excellent article on the Student Loyalty Oath in the April 22nd issue of Commonweal. In a common sense approach Senator McCarthy points out that no one seriously believes that the security of the nation will be affected by students not taking the oath nor on the other hand that the integrity of the academic community will be destroyed if the oath is retained. He then goes on to point out that the requirement tends to cheapen the taking of the oaths which has always been serious in our culture. Second, it questions the integrity and responsibility of the individual which in our democracy must be assumed until there is evidence to the contrary. Thirdly, he feels that professional groups should govern their own members.

EDUCATION THE FIRST RESPONSIBILITY

In the same issue of Commonweal is an excellent article by Father Brendan Downey, President of St. Benedicts College, entitled, "A Question of Survival." Father Downey after dealing with the commonly asked questions about the future of church colleges goes on to make some comments that could well be made by those concerned for Protestant church colleges. He expresses his concern that Catholic colleges in emphasizing the importance of the right kind of education in order to save one's soul and form apostles to save souls of others often means neglecting "the pursuit of truth for its own sake according to the ideal of Cardinal Newman." This he feels "has not penetrated the Catholic consciousness to any noticeable degree." He feels the Catholic college ought to be concerned about the spiritual advancement of its students but "when these considerations, however, are substituted for the primary aim of any self-respecting institution of higher learning - a quest for knowledge as its own end in the development of the critical intelligence to its highest potential - no very high intellectual goal is likely to be achieved. By the same token, since the primary aim of the liberal arts college is the perfection of the intellect, the neglect of this aim by those who have committed themselves to it professionally is not likely to be pleasing to God or conducive to sanctity. Faculties and students who are content with intellectual mediocrity or with academic performance at less than capacity are guilty of a grave misuse of the God-given gift of intellect. Thus, spiritual perfection must be pursued in college, not in spite of, but by means of the cultivation of the mind."

DENIS BALY ON EDUCATION

In the April 23rd issue of the Church of the Brethren Gospel Messenger, A. Denis Baly gives the following "theological reasons for the importance of education in Christian thought. .....First, that everything in this universe is worth studying, because God made it; second, because God revealed himself through events, there is, therefore, a history of events to be learned and studied and explained; third, that since God chose to become man in the supreme revelation, therefore, human reason is something through which he is prepared to work and not something to be despised; fourth, because human reason is part of man for whom Christ died, therefore it is something which must be redeemed, for, left to itself it can be corrupted; finally, because Christ's work was not complete until he arose from the dead, the complete explanation of everything is not to be sought here, in this world of time and space or on this side of death but in the world to come."

Insuring the carrying on for two years the Consultations of Theologians and Philosophers of Education on A Protestant Philosophy of Education, the Commission on Higher Education has received a grant of $4500 from the Danforth Foundation.

Hubert C. Noble
General Director